COMPLIMENTS JOHN BOYD
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CANADA

An Appeal for Racial Concord and National Unity

Speech delivered in proposing the toast of "CANADA" at the annual banquet of the St. Patrick's Society, Windsor Hotel, Montreal, March 17th, 1920

BY

JOHN BOYD

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FOREWORD

The sixtieth annual banquet of the St. Patricks Society of Montreal in celebration of Ireland's national festival which was held at the Windsor Hotel on the evening of Wednesday, March 17th, 1920, was a notable event. Hon. Justice Purcell, President of St. Patricks Society occupied the chair and there was a large and distinguished gathering which taxed the capacity of the commodious dining hall. Among those seated to the right and left of the Chairman at the table of honor were Prof. A. V. Pope, formerly of the University of California, now of New York city, Rev. Father Handly of Chicago, the eminent Paulist Father who had been conducting the Lenten services at St. Patricks Church, Mgr. Donnelly, Right Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice in the Dominion Government, Ald. W. J. Hushion representing the Mayor of Montreal, Henri Bourassa, John Boyd, President of the Canadian National League, A. McA. Murphy, Irish Protestant Benevolent Society, Victor Morin, L'Association Saint-Jean-Baptiste, A. T. Chapman, St. Georges Society, John A. Greig, Caledonian Society, William Drysdale, St. Andrews Society, Col. Clarence F. Smith, Knights of Columbus, Charles Adams, Newfoundland Society, Lyon Cohen, Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Hon. Dr. J. J. Guerin, former Mayor of Montreal, the Recorder of Montreal, G. H. Semple, Dr. Conroy, M.L.A., Frank Curran, K.C., W. E. Walsh and Major Thomas Guerin, Vice-Presidents St. Patricks Society, Walter Kennedy, M. A. Phelan, K.C., and W. R. Borbridge.

The toasts were "The King", "Ireland", "Canada" and "Our Guests". After the toast of "The King" had been honored with the singing of the National Anthemn the chairman called upon Mgr. Donnlly, who in most eloquent terms proposed the toast of "Ireland" which was responded to by Prof. Pope who dealt exhaustively with Ireland's long struggle for self-government. The toast of "Canada" was proposed by Mr. John Boyd, President of the Canadian National League, and, after some eloquent and felicitous remarks by Rev. Father Handly, was responded to by Right Hon. C. J. Doherty. The toast of "Our Guests" which was proposed by Major Thomas Guerin was responded to by Mr. Henri Bourassa and Mr. McA. Murphy, President of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society.

The accompanying speech is isssued by request in pamphlet form by the Canadian National League for distribution as an appeal for racial concord and national unity.

CANADA

(Speech of John Boyd, in proposing the toast of "Canada" at the annual banquet of the St. Patrick's Society, held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, March 17th, 1920.)

Mr. Chairman and Fellow-Canadians:—

When I look around this magnificent room, when I witness this imposing gathering and see assembled here so many who are renowned for their wit, their wisdom and their eloquence, I am almost overwhelmed by the thought of the task which has been assigned to me, the more so after the very eloquent addresses, which we have just had the great pleasure of hearing. As my good friend, Mr. Frank Curran, who has worked so hard for the success of this gathering knows, when it was first suggested that I should address you this evening,, I hesitated; but I felt that the invitation was one that could not well be declined, because the high honor of speaking under the auspices of the St. Patrick's Society is one that anybody should appreciate, especially when asked to propose the toast of "Canada". Whilst listening to the eloquent address of Mgr. Donnelly in proposing the toast of "Ireland" and to the masterly address of Prof. Pope in responding to that toast, it seemed to me that my hesitation was well justified, as it is now all the more difficult to do justice to the toast of "Canada". But I take courage, my fears vanish, the task instead of being a burden becomes a pleasure, when I see the smiling, kindly countenance of my good friend, the Chairman, your distinguished President, who has been altogether too kind in his remarks regarding myself, for which, however, I thank him, and when I gaze into the beaming, cordial Irish countenances of the many kind friends around me; for then I know that any short-comings of mine will be overlooked through the kindness of your warm Irish hearts, and I further take comfort from the thought that any imperfections on my part will be amply compensated for by the address of the distinguished Irish Canadian who will respond (applause).

THE INSPIRATION OF CANADA

And then there is the incentive of the subject itself. It would, indeed, require the eloquence of a Demosthenes, a Cicero, a Burke, a Chatham or an O'Connell, to do full justice to the toast which I have the proud privilege of proposing. But the least eloquent of lips might well be made eloquent, the dullest and coldest heart might well be inflamed, the weakest words might well be touched with inspiration by the very thought of Canada (applause). Canada! that glorious galaxy of nine great sister provinces, knit together in an indissoluble union. Canada! that magnificent heritage of ours extending for over three thousand miles from the waters of the broad Atlantic to the far-away slopes of the sun-kissed Pacific, that land teeming with riches, with its millions of fertile acres, which will furnish homes for hundreds of millions of sutrdy Canadians yet to be, with its inexhaustible resources, its vast potentialities, its bracing and invigorating climate, its heroic and storied past, and, rarest gift of all, its stalwart sons and its fair daughters — Canada! this native land of ours, the best, the greatest, the fairest and the freest land on God's green earth (loud applause).

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,
Who never to himself has said
'This is my own, my native land!' " (applause)

And into this magnificent country Providence, as if to assure its mighty destiny, has poured the best of all the peoples of the earth. Read over the figures of the census and you will see that in addition to the four great ethnical elements — the French, the Irish, the Scotch and the English — the population of the Dominion includes men of every race and from every clime in the known world — a great cosmopolitan population that will be moulded by the process of time and the fires of patriotism into one mighty united people — the Canadian people. And of the total population of the Dominion more than one million, or nearly one-eight of the whole, are Irish. The exact figures, according to the last census were 1,050,384, and no doubt the forthcoming census will show an even larger number.

THE GLORY OF IRELAND

It is primarily as Irishmen, either natives of Ireland or descendants of those who came from the old sod, that you are assembled here

to-night to celebrate Ireland's national festival and to pay reverence to the memory of Ireland's patron saint, that great missionary whose labors meant so much, not only for Ireland but for the world.

Now, of course, I have no desire to offend you, Gentlemen. I would not for the world wound your national pride or racial susceptibilities, but, as a Canadian whose father was Scotch, but whose mother — thanks be to God — was Irish — (applause) perhaps I may be permitted to say, without offence, that I naturally rejoice at the fact that St. Patrick, though an adopted son of Ireland, was by birth really a Scotchman (loud laughter and applause). At least the tradition is that the spot of St. Patrick's birth was near Dunbarton in Scotland and that when a stalwart Scotch lad, sixteen years of age, he was taken prisoner by a body of Irish raiders who were making a descent upon Britain and carried a captive to Ireland. Those Irish raiders — whoever they were, God rest their souls — certainly rendered a signal service to their country and what was Scotland's loss was Ireland's gain (applause).

But wherever he was born, the fact remains that St. Patrick's work and fame are inseparably associated with Ireland. Of his life work, of those mighty missionary labors, which resulted in the speedy and complete triumph of Christianity over the ancient Druid religion and of his great efforts in many directions it is not for me to speak; they have already been alluded to. As you all know, among the many great things that he did he is reputed to have driven the snakes out of Ireland, though it has lately been irreverently claimed that that is really allegorical, signifying that St. Patrick was an early champion of that "dry" movement, which has made such progress in our own times and which is driving the snakes out of many countries, though perhaps it may have tended to somewhat dampen the conviviality of such festive gatherings as ours this evening (laughter). But that is neither here nor there (laughter).

The fact that I wish to emphasize is that before the whole world the noble and commanding figure of St. Patrick stands as the symbol of Ireland — of Erin incarnate. And who, whether he be Irish or not, would not be proud to do reverence to such a symbol? (applause). Who would not be more than proud to be able to trace his origin to that fair and historic isle, which is set as a jewel amidst the waters

of the northern sea, that isle, which, when nearly the whole of Europe was sunk in darkness and ignorance, was the home of learning and culture, from which, as history proudly records, went forth devoted missionaries into the highlands of Scotland, into the forests of Germany and into the wilds of the Alps and the Appenines? (applause). Who, indeed, would not be proud to be able to trace his descent to that isle, upon whose sacred soil famed Iona, fittingly called the nursery of saints and the oracle of the west, became the most renowned centre of Christian learning and missionary zeal in the world, and which for over two centuries was the fount from which radiated light through the darkness of the surrounding heathenism, whose sons — those noble Irish missionaries in the heydey of the great Celtic Church, were not only the apostles of Christianity but instructors in every known branch of science and learning of the time, the possessors and bearers of a higher culture than was at that period to be found anywhere and who, it can be justly said, were the pioneers who laid the corner stone of the whole of western civilization and culture! (Loud applause). Does not history, in fact, record how for some ages Ireland was the chief seat of learning in Christian Europe and how the most distinguished scholars who appeared in other countries were mostly either Irish by birth or had received their education in Irish schools? Are we not told by Bede, the great English scholar and Churchman that in his day it was customary for his English fellow-countrymen of all ranks, from the highest to the lowest, to retire for study and devotion to Ireland, where, he adds, they were all hospitably received, and supplied gratuitously with food, with books and with instruction? (applause). The glory of that age of Irish scholarship and genius is, indeed, imperishable. And from that day to this have gone forth from that historic isle into all parts of the known world men who have gained distinction in every walk of life,— discoverers, colonizers, great empire-builders, statesmen, churchmen, warriors, poets, writers, artists, reformers, saints and heroes, whose names are inscribed in letters of gold on the rolls of glory in every land under the sun. (Loud applause). Well, indeed, may you be proud of your Irish origin. And especially have you reason to be proud because Ireland has ever firmly held aloft the torch of liberty and of freedom. In the darkest days, in the face of defeat, disaster

and even betrayal, Ireland and Irishmen have ever been true to the sacred cause of individual liberty and national freedom. And please God the day is not far distant when the age-long struggle shall end and Ireland shall secure, what is her indisputable right, that entire self-government, which has made our own fair land so happy, prosperous and contented. (Great applause).

O Ireland, Erin beloved!
Mother of saints and of heroes,
Who hath kept the faith unpolluted,
Never faltering nor failing
Through the dark ages of sorrow.
Fair as some innocent maiden,
Whom a burden of anguish oppresses,
But who gazes with eyes unbeclouded
To the happier days of the future,
When the long darkness shall vanish
And justice and freedom shall triumph,
O Ireland, Erin beloved!
That day shall soon down. *

FIRST THOUGHT FOR CANADA

Well, I say, may you all be proud of your Irish origin. But whilst you as Irishmen, whilst all Canadians, no matter what their origin may be, have a right to take a pride in the lands of their forefathers, whilst we may, indeed whilst we shall

"Ne'er forget the good old blood
That courses through our veins".

For

"Proud Scotia's fame, old Erin's name,
And mighty Albion's powers
Reflect their matchless lustre on
This Canada of ours".

yet it is to Canada, to this great Dominion of ours, that we all owe our first thought and our undying love, allegiance and devotion (loud applause).

Sometimes I think of Canada as a grand and imposing structure upon which successive bodies of workers have been employed. The foundations, as you all know, were laid by those heroic and intrepid Frenchmen, who were the discoverers, the pioneers, the colonizers, the earliest apostles of Christianity and of civilization on the North

* Specially composed by the speaker for the occasion.

American continent and as the results of whose labors and the labors of their descendants there has been woven into the web of our national life those distinctive lines, which now adorn the whole pattern and which we would not, I am sure, remove even if we could. Let us never forget what Canada owes to men of French blood and of the French tongue (loud applause). We may even now show our appreciation of that fact by all, as Canadians, rallying to the support of that great institution which should be made by our united efforts one of the greatest seats of learning in the world — the Université de Montréal (applause). It is a pleasure to see here to-night a representative of the French Canadian community and of that great University — Mr. Victor Morin, the distinguished President of L'Association Saint-Jean Baptiste (applause).

The Irish, the Scotch and the English followed the French, all doing a great work for Canada, and to-day men of all races and of all creeds are working together to complete and embellish the mighty edifice of Confederation (loud applause).

SERVICE OF IRISHMEN TO CANADA

Among all the workers for Canada none have done more for its progress and development than have the Irish. Now it is not my desire to extol the Irishman in Canada at the expense of other races; did time permit I could mention equally great deeds and equally illustrious names from the other races all of whom, as I have said, have done great things for Canada. But I simply wish very briefly to emphasize some of the principal things for which we all, as Canadians, are indebted to Irish-Canadians. As that brilliant Irish-Canadian, Nicholas Flood Davin, once truly said "the Irishman has played so large a part in Canada that his history could not be written without to a large extent writing the history of the country." From the earliest days to the present Irishmen have, in fact, been conspicuous in service to our country. The man who safeguarded Canadian independence in 1776. one of the greatest governors that Canada has ever had, the man who as has well been said "proved himself the veritable savior of Canada and watched with greatest anxiety, care, efficiency and far sighted wisdom over her infant years" was an Irishman, the famous Guy Carleton, who was born in County Tyrone in the very year that the great Marlborough died. (applause).

And whilst Carleton was safeguarding Canadian independence threatened by the rising of the American colonies against Great Britain, Irishmen were penetrating to all portions of the country and helping to lay the foundations of its present greatness. Many of those who hewed out the virgin wilderness, who began what are to-day great and thriving centres and who now sleep in unknown graves were Irish. With truth has it been said by an Irish-Canadian historian —

"There are thousands of flourishing acres in Canada on whose yellow harvest an owner, who is not Irish, looks, but which were cleared by Irishmen, who in many instances dropped like soldiers in the battle and fell into unknown graves, truly the unremembered brave. On lands where their names are unknown they planted the first civilizing feet, they grappled with the wilderness and then after their labors passed away, unhonored and unsung."

Well we may pay a belated tribute to the memory of those heroic Irish-Canadian pioneers. And those noble and devoted Irish Canadian Catholic bishops, priests and missionaries who in those hard and pioneer days, were, as they have been ever since and still are — and proud am I, though of a different faith, to say it — the guides, the friends, the counsellors and comforters of their scattered and struggling flocks, what words of mine could be sufficient praise for them? (applause).

And who played a greater part than Irishmen in the momentous struggle for responsible government in Canada? It was an Irishman, the brilliant and scholarly Dr. O'Callghan, who, as you know, was the friend and supporter of Papineau in the fight for the people's rights in Lower Canada, and Lafontaine who carried the struggle to a successful conclusion, had the support and co-operation of a still greater man of Irish extraction, the illustrious reformer, Robert Baldwin. (applause). In the cause of Canada's political freedom was raised the potent and eloquent voice of another Irishman, William Hume Blake, father of the man who is acknowledged to have been one of the greatest intellects that Canada has had — the illustrious Edward Blake, who not only served Canada well, but with rare eloquence and distinction championed the cause of Ireland in the halls of the Imperial Parliament (applause). Still another Irishman who at one time played a leading part in Canadian public life and for a period was Prime Minisled of United Canada — Francis Hincks — could claim the good old city of Cork as his birthplace (applause). And coming down to a later and more momentous period, we find that one of the greatest of the Fathers of Confederation was an Irishman, whose matchless eloquence and lofty genius has forever shed lustre upon the Irish name — the immortal Thomas D'Arcy McGee (loud applause). "In the select company of the Fathers" it has been well said, "McGee was a type apart; he was young Ireland incarnate. He carried his enthusiasm for union from province to province until his eloquent appeal fired the lagging decisions of men of lesser vision and Confederation became inevitable." With a passionate love McGee loved Canada, he loved it for its own sake and he loved it because it reminded him in many ways of the beloved land of his birth and early struggles. We have an echo of that feeling in these pathetic lines of his:—

"Where'er I turned some emblem still
Roused consciousness upon my track,
Some hill was like an Irish hill —
Some wild bird's whistle called me back."

To his dying hour McGee loved Canada. Almost his last words were a plea for union, harmony and conciliation. And Canada will never forget McGee. Soon on Parliament Hill will rise a stately monument to his memory and his name will forever live in our history as that of one of the greatest founders of our fair Dominion and the most illustrious representative that the Irish race in Canada has ever had (applause). And what need is there to go further? In all the great walks of life — in the State, the Church, in literature and in art, in the professions and in business, Irish Canadians have won honor, fame and distinction. The very names of McGee, Baldwin, Hincks, O'Callaghan, Sullivan, Blake, Hogan, Foley, Whelan, Connolly, Hannan, O'Brien, Lynch, McNeil, Hagarthy, McCarthy, Devlin, Davin, O'Connor, Costigan, O'Farrell, Curran, Quinn, Hingston, Fitzpatrick, Doherty, Hackett, Carrel, Shaughnessy, Beatty, Purcell, Guerin, Kane, Cullen, Foran, Fallon, Donnelly, Walsh, McShane, Burke, O'Hagan, Drummond and of many another are in themselves eloquent of the great things Irish Canadians have done for our country (applause). And what Irishmen have done in the past they will, we may be sure, do in the future. They will be true to the spirit of their predecessors. They will "carry on." (applause).

CANADA'S RIGHT TO NATIONHOOD

We have now entered upon what will undoubtedly be the most critical period of our national life. We have just passed through five of the most awful years in the world's history. We have been under a tremendous strain, we have made unparalleled sacrifices. Yes, my friends, the sacrifice has, indeed, been great. I speak not of money, which is nothing. We have lost what is of far greatest concern than money — we have lost thousands of our best and bravest. How barren are words when we would speak of them — those gallant boys who marched so proudly from our midst in the flower of their young and virile manhood but whom we shall behold no more. They sleep their last sleep far from the shores of their native land; their beloved Canada they shall never see again. But, thank God, they did not die in vain. (applause). They have taught us, who remain, how to "carry on" (applause). And thanks to what they did, to their bravery, their gallantry, their heroism and their devotion Canadians can to-day hold their heads high among all the peoples of the world. (applause). Thanks, too, to them and to the great part that the Dominion played in the war Canada has the right to-day to claim the

rank and standing of a nation (loud applause). Now I must be very careful, as this is a very delicate and debatable question and I see sitting close by Mr. Henri Bourassa, (laughter and applause). The distinguished Irish-Canadian who sits at the Chairman's right (applause) and who was one of the Dominion's representatives at the Peace Conference, Mr. Doherty, referring to Canada's status has said — I quote his exact words —

> "Canada's admission to the League of Nations constitutes the most formal recognition of her national status. Through it she takes her place in the International family as one of the group of independent nations that make up that League of Nations that the British Empire has grown to be." (applause).

Such, it is interesting to note, is Mr. Doherty's view of what the Dominion's status is. Now, as I said, this whole question is a very debatable one and this is neither the time nor the place to enter upon its controversial aspects. But at least there is one thing upon which, I am sure, we will all agree and that is that Canada has now the right to demand before the world recognition of national status and that Canadians will never countenance anything that in the slightest degree will interfere with the Dominion's absolute autonomy. (loud applause). Fault has sometimes been found with me for being too strong a Canadian, as if such a thing were possible, but I trust that the day will never come when I shall cease to take my chief pride in Canada as a nation and in the still greater future that awaits her as such. (applause).

NO ROOM FOR PESSIMISM

We have, as I said, been taught by our heroic dead how to "carry on" and we shall "carry on" in justice to their memories and for our own sake. True we have many serious problems to face. But what of that? Other countries, less virile than Canada, have been confronted by even more serious problems and have met them successfully, as we shall meet them. (applause).

Let me say that I have not the slightest patience with those who are preaching pessimism in our midst, those who are bemoaning prevailing conditions and painting the future in the darkest colors. (hear, hear). There is, it seems to me, nothing alarming in the present unrest; on the contrary, it is a sign that we are living and not dead. Movement and activity are always preferable to stagnation and repose. A cemetery is a very calm, restful and peaceful spot, but I do not know that any of us are very anxious to be permanently located there until it becomes absolutely necessary. (laughter). As long as there are reforms to be secured, unrest, criticism, and agitation, as long as it is kept within constitutional bounds, are very good and very neces-

sary things in the public interest. I do not know that my good friend the Minister of Justice will agree with it, or not, but it is my opinion that criticism and opposition are now and again very necessary for even our statesmen and politicians, as it keeps them from becoming rusty and I have no doubt that it is the criticism, the opposition and the fighting that our distinguished friend has had that has kept him despite the march of time as young as he is. (laughter and applause).

CANADA'S GREATEST NEED

The unrest and uncertainty that we are experiencing to-day are simply our growing pains and we shall grow out of them into the full strength, vigor and power of mature manhood. What is needed is less talk and more work, less pessimism and more faith (applause). As Mr. E. W. Beatty (applause) the distinguished head of that great corporation, which has done and is doing so much for the progress of Canada, and who like his great predecessor, Lord Shaughnessy, has Irish blood in his veins, (applause) and is therefore naturally an optimist, has well emphasized, Canadians need to have unlimited faith in the future of the Dominion (applause). And above all, we must have union, peace and harmony between all elements of our people. (loud applause). Racial concord and national unity are, in fact, the greatest needs of our country to-day. (Hear, hear and applause). Unfortunately we have not always had, nor do we yet always have that unity and concord which are so essential to the national welfare. It would be difficult, indeed, to find words strong enough to denounce those who have sought or are seeking, by arousing racial and religious prejudices and passions to divide our great country and to endanger the very fabric of Confederation (Hear, hear). As that great Western Canadian, Mr. T. A. Crerar, has well said, he is the worst enemy of the Dominion who arouses prejudice and passion. Those in fact are the best friends of Canada who seek to promote peace and harmony; these are her deadliest foes who strive to create division and disunion. If those men were to succeed in their nefarious work the graves of all our patriot dead from the Atlantic to the Pacific would open in solemn protest, the thousands of heroic Canadians who rest in peace "where poppies blow in Flanders fields" would cry shame, the very wrath of Heaven would descend upon them. But they shall not succeed. We must have union, we shall have union in this great country of ours (loud applause).

And such a union does not mean that there should be identity of races or creeds in the Dominion. Diversity of race and of creed is an advantage rather than a misfortune, as the contact of different elements tends to produce a happy spirit of emulation which is beneficial to our national welfare (Hear, hear). True national unity consists of Canadians of different races and creeds respecting the rights

feelings and sentiments each of the other and all being united in devotion to their common country. (Hear, hear). In other words, Canadians of different races and creeds must never be enemies but friends, not antagonists but allies all working together in concord and harmony for the welfare and aggrandizement of their common country (applause). As one of the greatest of the Fathers of Confederation — George Etienne Cartier — truly said — and these striking words are appropriately engraved on the noble monument that rises in his honor on the slopes of Mount Royal "*We are of different races not for strife but to work together for the common welfare.*" It is upon such a basis alone, a basis of cordial co-operation and good will that true national unity can be secured and Confederation permanently endure. (applause).

TRUE NATIONAL UNITY

The idea that I would wish the most strongly to convey was emphasized better than any words of mine could emphasize it by one of the greatest of Canadians, the man who throughout his long and illustrious career ever advocated concord and unity and whose loss the whole of Canada deplored. I refer to Sir Wilfrid Laurier (loud applause). Speaking of an incident that happened during one of his visits to England that great statesman said:—

"When in England at the Queen's Jubilee I had the privilege of visiting one of the marvels of Gothic architecture, which the hand of genius, guided by unerring faith, had made a harmonious whole, in which granite, marble, oak, and other materials were blended. That cathedral is an image of the nation I hope to see Canada become. I shall always repel the idea of changing the nature of its different elements. I want the marble to remain the marble; I want the granite to remain the granite; I want the oak to remain the oak; I want the sturdy Scotchman to remain the Scotchman; I want the brainy Englishman to remain the Englishman; I want the warm-hearted Irishman to remain the Irishman; [and of course he intended to imply that he wished the French-Canadian to remain the French-Canadian]. I want to take all these elements and build a nation that will be foremost among the nations of the world."

That is the true conception of national unity and it is such a union that we should all strive for in the interest of our beloved land. (applause).

What wise, noble and patriotic words are also those lately uttered by His Grace, Archbishop Mathieu (applause) who has done and is doing so much to promote racial concord and national unity. They are so appropriate and timely that I cannot refrain from quoting them on this occasion. Speaking lately in the City of Quebec, His Grace the Archbishop of Regina said:—

"Let us all work for union in our great country. Let us remember that there are hundreds of questions on which honest people have a right to their views whilst at the same time it is their duty to respect those who have different views. Let us realize that the strength of a cause is in proportion to the moderation of those who defend it, without ceding anything that rightly belongs to them and without ever going beyond their rights.

"Let us also accustom ourselves to see the good side of others, never to attribute to them bad intentions which often they do not have; bad intentions are like pence, to give them to others one must have them himself.

"Be charitable and we shall have taken the best means of having union, to live in peace and in that state of affection which constitutes the charm of existence.

"God grant that the citizens of the various nationalities in Canada may realize that they must love and not hate each other; they will then admire the good qualities, each of the other, they will overlook the faults, each of the other, they will work hand in hand, for the welfare of a country which they have a right to love, which they will love and serve, even though not speaking the same language. As long as God gives me life I will work for such a union." (Loud applause).

Should we not all be inspired and guided by these noble and patriotic sentiments? We have here to-night a striking illustration of that fraternity that should always exist between Canadians. To the immediate right of the President of the St. Patrick's Society is seated the worthy President of the Irish-Protestant Benevolent Society, close to him we see the President of L'Association Saint-Jean Baptiste, the national society of the French-Canadians and at this table too we have the representatives of the Scotch, the English, the Welsh and the Jewish organizations, all forming a happy and united family of true, staunch, patriotic Canadians. It is an inspiring spectacle; it is as it always should be and, let us hope, as it always will be in our country. (applause).

We have, as I said, every reason to be proud of our great Dominion and confident as to its future and as the distinguished head of our own great Province, Sir Lomer Gouin,(applause) has well said we must all work ceaselessly and without faltering for the development, welfare and greatness of the Canadian Confederation. We can only do so in union and harmony as fellow-countrymen, as fellow-Canadians.

The history of the past furnishes the lesson that should guide and inspire us in the future. Fifty-three years ago the founders of the Canadian nation, animated by the most unselfish patriotism, the

loftiest ideals and the highest hopes for the future, conceived and carried into execution their great design. Let us be true to the spirit of the Fathers. With the same patriotism, the same lofty ideals and the same high hopes let us all, whatever our race, our language or our creed may be, march forward, hand in hand as Canadians, to the great and glorious destiny that assuredly awaits us.

Let others in their emblems see
The signs of pomp and glory,
The Maple Leaf our emblem be—
Canadians All!
The past is theirs, the future ours
And great shall be its story,
Most puisant be this people's powers
Canadians All!
The future calls to greater fame
To our fair land redounding,
One land for brethren one in name—
Canadians All!

I ask you now to fill your glasses and to the strains of "O Canada" to drink a bumper to the future greatness, happiness nad prosperity of our beloved Canada.

The toast which was honored amidst the greatest enthusiasm was responded to by Right Hon. C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, who said that he was proud to see Canada "proudly wearing the crown of a presently recognized nation, looking into the future, conscious that she held in her own hands her own destiny, recognizing domination from no quarter and as little seeking domination as she is willing to be dominated, ready to face the tasks that lie before her, ready for co-operation on the footing of equality with the sister nations by whose side she stands in every good cause that makes for the strengthening of liberty and the maintenance of justice." The Minister of Justice also made a strong appeal for unity among all races and creeds in Canada, but insisting that this must not be confounded with uniformity and especially enforced uniformity which was the enemy of unity.

The Canadian National League

ITS OBJECTS

Promotion of racial concord and national unity.

To make the people of each province better known to the people of the other provinces.

To create a better understanding between all sections of the Dominion.

To arouse Canadian patriotism and to develop a true national spirit.

The development of Canadian nationhood through the cordial and fraternal cooperation of Canadians of all races and creeds.

To commemorate the great figures and the memorable deeds of Canadian history.

The encouragement of Canadian literature and art.

Amity and good will between the Dominion of Canada and all other countries.

There is no politics about the Canadian National League; it is a strictly non-partisan organization with its membership open to all Canadians who believe in its objects.

Do YOU believe in those objects?

If you do and desire to become identified with the work of the organization you can do so by addressing "The Canadian National League," P. O. Drawer, 1689, Montreal.